

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1492

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, OVIP (WILLIAMS, ERIC), TD, US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' DESIRE TO MEET

WITH THE SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: A) PORT OF SPAIN 1475; B) STATE 142489

1. LAST EVENING AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR IN HONOR OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER
DR. ERIC WILLIAMS' FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE
SOVIET UNION, DR. WILLIAMS DREW ME ASIDE FOR THIRTY-
MINUTE PRIVATE CONVERSATION DEVOTED MOSTLY TO HIS
INTEREST IN TALKING WITH YOU EITHER IN NEW YORK OR
WASHINGTON AT SOME TIME DURING HIS INFORMAL STAY IN THE
UNITED STATES FROM JUNE 22 TO 27. I UNDERSTAND THAT A
FORMAL REQUEST FOR SUCH A MEETING WAS EARLIER MADE VIA
TRINIDAD EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND DR. WILLIAMS SUBSE-
QUENTLY INFORMED ME EARLY THIS MORNING (AT HIS AIRPORT
DEPARTURE FOR CUBA ON FIRST LEG OF CURRENT TRAVELS) THAT
HE HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON LATE LAST NIGHT TO THE EFFECT THAT
MCINTYRE HAD JUST DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED MEETING WITH
YOU AT A RECEPTION. DR. WILLIAMS INFORMED ME HE WILL BE
COMMITTED TO COMMITTEE MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
UN UNIVERSITY ON MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 23. DIRECTORS MEET
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IN FULL SESSIONS ON JUNE 24 AND 25 AS WELL, BUT HE STATED

THAT EXCEPT FOR MONDAY MORNING HE COULD BE FLEXIBLE
REGARDING A TIME FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU.

2. DR. WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED WITH VERVE AND ENTHUSIASM
HIS INTEREST INTALKING WITH YOU ABOUT THE PROSPECT FOR
ESTABLISHING A LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN SEA
WHICH WOULD KEEP THE SEA LANES AND RESOURCES OF THE AREA
OPEN TO ALL IN THE CARIBBEAN RATHER THAN FRAGMENTED AMONG
MANY COMPETING JURISDICTIONS AS WOULD OCCUR IF THE GUIDELINES
EMERGING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCES
ARE APPLIED RIGIDLY TO THE CARIBBEAN. DETAILS OF HIS
EVOLVING PROPOSAL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL, BUT DR. WILLIAMS
STRESSED THAT HE WILL BE PRESSING THIS ISSUE WITH CASTRO
IN HAVANA IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND HOPES TO WIN CASTRO'S SUPPORT
FOR RENOUNCING CUBAN CLAIM OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN
CARIBBEAN IN FAVOR OF A MORE COOPERATIVE MULTILATERAL
APPROACH.

3. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE DR. WILLIAMS WHILE HE IS
IN US OR MEET WITH HIM IN NEW YORK DURING YOUR OTHER
BUSINESS THERE, BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST HELPFUL IN FURTHER
LUBRICATING USG-TRINIDADIAN RELATIONS WHICH WERE SO
SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED BY DR. WILLIAMS' MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT EARLY THIS YEAR. AS I BELIEVE YOU KNOW, WILLIAMS
HAS THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR YOU PERSONALLY, AND BELIEVES
THAT SUBJECT OF SUCH HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE AS THE FUTURE
DIVIDING UP OF CARIBBEAN SEA IS MATTER WHICH HE CAN DISCUSS
IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE WITH YOU MORE PERTINENTLY THAN
WITH ALMOST ANYONE ELSE.

4. DR. WILLIAMS ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ASSURE ME THAT
HE DID NOT INTEND TO EXCLUDE USG FROM ECLA FUNCTIONS,
INCLUDING THE WORK OF THE NEW CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE, DESPITE
SOME APPEARANCE IN THAT REGARD AT THE TIME OF THE RECENT
ECLA CONFERENCE IN PORT OF SPAIN. AS HE BECOMES MORE
SHARPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POWER AND ACTIVITIES OF
VENEZUELA AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE GROWTH AND ASPIRATIONS
OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, HE SEEMS TO BE TURNING
MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE U.S. FOR DIALOGUE AND SUPPORT.

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